

# Integrating an Attendance Multitiered System of Supports (MTSS) Into State MTSS Frameworks



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The Learning Series opened with a series titled “Integrating an Attendance Multitiered System of Supports Into State MTSS Frameworks.” The series focused on how to integrate attendance-focused supports into existing State MTSS frameworks to ensure current MTSS frameworks better support attendance. The objective of the series was to gather state and local education agencies to learn about promising practices and provide resources to address challenges related to student engagement and chronic absenteeism. SEAC brought together 12 state teams during the first series.

The first session was titled “Building the School’s Attendance MTSS, Beginning With Prevention.” It focused on the significant impact of COVID-19 on student absenteeism and the implications of heightened chronic absences for an attendance MTSS. The second session, titled “Taking a Transformational Approach to MTSS,” featured state presenters who shared how they transitioned their policies from a focus on unexcused absences to a student- and family-centered multitiered approach to student absenteeism. The final session, “Applying Lessons Learned,” provided state teams an opportunity to reflect on their state’s MTSS strategy and learn about available tools from Attendance Works.

Attendance Works subject matter experts led the series, starting with their framework for MTSS that emphasized the importance of multilevel supports, including systems ingredients for success and creation of a sustainable model. The series also featured presenters from Washington and Michigan. Krissy Johnson from the Office of Superintendent and Public Instruction from Washington presented the state’s report card highlighting data from the 2020–21 school year. The state report card demonstrates attendance broken down by demographics within the state (see the full report card [here](#)). Anna Harms and Bersheril Bailey presented on Michigan’s MTSS framework. The main focus of their framework includes a comprehensive screening and assessment system intended to detect early warning indicators to promote school engagement and reduce dropout rates.

In the final session of the first series, state teams gathered to compare insights on how to promote more coordinated approaches to improving attendance. Participants also discussed how to take stock of their resources for supporting a tiered approach to improving attendance and identify how they can strengthen this approach.

The series is available to view using the links and passcodes below:

- ▶ [1.1 Building the School’s Attendance MTSS, Beginning With Prevention](#): Passcode xa9Zy=L=
- ▶ [1.2 Taking a Transformational Approach to MTSS](#): Passcode N&j4#rDE
- ▶ [1.3 Applying Lessons Learned](#): Passcode Z3!LGukq